

THE TOILET PAPERS - VOL. 1

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FLUSHING OUT THE FACTS ON WATER EFFICIENT TOILETS A little history

It was in 1992 that the National Energy Policy Act (H.R. 776) went into effect requiring that toilets and a variety of other products meet established energy and water efficiency standards. That is when 1.6 gallon per flush toilets became a federal standard for any new construction or remodel. The good news is that the 1.6 gallon low-flow toilets have been shown to reduce toilet water use by 23 to 46 percent.



was difficult since models are constantly changing. Thankfully, in 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched the *WaterSense* labeling program to help consumers choose water efficient products. The program is similar to their *Energy Star* labeling that highlights energy efficient choices.

The bad news? Unfortunately, the first round of low-flow toilets were not always well designed. Many manufacturers simply made the tank smaller or designed the flapper to close more quickly. Consumer complaints were common.

Luckily, manufacturers have worked to improve their products, but like everything else, some do the job better than others.

Confirming the worst fears of the water industry, a study performed by the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center found many of the 1.6 gallon toilets lost their efficiency as they aged or had flappers replaced. Many were shown to eventually use 2 to 3.5 gallons and sometimes even more.

Keeping tabs on toilets with the best ratings

We spend 3 years of our life using the toilet, so make sure you have a good seat.

According to EPA, "The *WaterSense* label is used on toilets that are certified

by independent laboratory testing to meet rigorous criteria for both performance and efficiency." Design advances enable *WaterSense* labeled toilets to use 1.28 gallons of water or less with no trade-off in flushing power. In fact, many perform better than standard toilets.

Whether remodeling a bathroom, starting construction of a new home, or simply replacing an old, leaky toilet that is wasting money and water, installing a *WaterSense* labeled toilet is a water-efficient option worth considering. **Look for the *WaterSense* label** on your next purchase or visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.



Evolution of Low-flow Toilets

Present	<1.6 gal.
1990's	1.6 gal.
1980's	3.5 gal.
1960's	5.5 gal.
Pre-1960	7 gal.

Toilet Trivia

Replacing 3.5
gallon toilets with
WaterSense
labeled toilets can
save a household
13,000 gallons of
water each year.

WATERSENSE DUAL FLUSH TOILETS LET YOU CHOOSE HOW LOW YOU FLOW

High efficiency toilets or HET's are designed to both conserve water per flush and, using a variety of technologies, work efficiently. How did HET's earn this title besides performing with such little water? Design advances such as larger traps and improved flushing technologies have brought enhanced performance. Also, many are **dual flush** toilets meaning they have

buttons or levers that allow you to use one option for liquid waste and another for solid waste so that you can choose just the right amount of water to get the job done.

Purchase **WaterSense** labeled dual flush models and watch your savings overflow! American Standard, Caroma, and Toto are just some of the manufacturers who offer them.



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Updated Jan. 2021